

reaching his 90th birthday on March 9, 2011, and to honor his heartfelt commitment and brave service to his community and his country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BEVIN
KALATHIL VARUGHESE MEMO-
RIAL FOUNDATION

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to seek Congressional recognition of the vital mission and achievements of the Bevin Kalathil Varughese Memorial Foundation (BKV). The BKV Memorial Foundation has been instrumental in raising awareness and resources for individuals battling leukemia. The Foundation's creation was inspired by the remarkable life of one of my constituents, Bevin Kalathil Varughese—a life which was tragically cut short following an unsuccessful bout with this terrible disease.

Born in Manhasset, New York, Bevin Kalathil Varughese was an affectionate individual and a cherished son, brother, nephew, cousin, and uncle. An extraordinarily motivated young man, Bevin graduated from Herricks High School in New York and went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Real Estate from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His cheerfulness, generosity, and love of life were evident to all who knew him; his personality touched all who were close to him.

Bevin's drive and good-nature were unwavering—even when he was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in January 2004 at the age of 24. Although Bevin fluctuated between relapse and remission for four years, he refused to let the disease dampen his spirits or weaken his will. Instead, Bevin focused his energy on researching the disease and the resources available to those it afflicts. By working with his family and friends, he created the South Asian Cancer Foundation (SACF) which advocates for leukemia awareness, particularly within the South Asian-American community. Bevin was also involved in a variety of other organizations dealing with the disease and those affected by it—he hosted fundraisers to benefit both the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) and the SACF, took part in the LLS Light the Night Walk, and organized numerous blood and bone marrow drives.

Although Bevin eventually lost his battle with leukemia on February 7th, 2008 at the all-too-young age of 28, his passion and legacy live on through the Bevin Kalathil Varughese Memorial Foundation. The BKV Memorial Foundation was created in 2008 to both preserve Bevin's memory and to continue his work with the South Asian Cancer Foundation. The Foundation's mission is to raise awareness about acute lymphoblastic leukemia and other blood-related diseases. This non-profit organization provides resources to those suffering from leukemia and to their families. The assistance comes in the form of support for leukemia patients, financial aid for those who cannot afford treatment, and donations for research to find a cure for the disease. The BKV Foundation works tirelessly to raise funding

through countless charity events and organizations. It has also reached out to the greater community by encouraging individuals to register with the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP).

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements and dedication of the Bevin Kalathil Varughese Memorial Foundation. Through its attempts to preserve and honor Bevin's memory, this Foundation is making a positive and lasting impact on countless lives. I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognition of the achievements of the Bevin Kalathil Varughese Memorial Foundation.

HONORING JORDAN GARDNER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan Gardner. Jordan is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Jordan's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Jordan has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Jordan can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jordan Gardner for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

FHA REFINANCE PROGRAM
TERMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 10, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 830) to rescind the unobligated funding for the FHA Refinance Program and to terminate the program, with Mr. Bass of New Hampshire in the chair.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Chair, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote no on H.R. 830, the FHA Refinance Program Termination Act. This bill would terminate the authority for the FHA to guarantee new single family refinance loans under the FHA refinance program at 97.75 percent of the home's value. I am concerned that the Republican plan would kill a program that offers a cost effective approach to assisting underwater borrowers achieve sustainable long-term homeownership.

This Congress should be committed to helping struggling homeowners stay in their homes. Instead it seems we are taking up measures that would only complicate this effort. According to the FHA nearly one quarter

of American homeowners are underwater on their mortgages. Terminating a program that would allow hard-working Americans who are current in their mortgages the ability to stay in their homes will only add to our nation's foreclosure crisis.

Mr. Chair, homeownership is the American dream for many families in this country. The FHA Refinance Program will give the American people a chance to keep their dream alive by allowing lenders the ability to write off mortgage principal, at no cost to the tax payer.

This Congress must stand with the distressed homeowners in this country who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own. Before moving forward we should ask ourselves who do we value, and more importantly who do we stand with? Congress must stand on the side of the homeowners in this country. I urge my colleagues to vote no H.R. 830.

RECOGNITION OF MS. NANCY
MAZZA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Mazza for her immeasurable contributions as a leader and corporate executive in the field of retail banking. Nancy has been valuable to my district and an asset to local communities. On March 11, 2011, Ms. Mazza will be recognized by the Greater Long Branch Chamber of Commerce during their 77th Annual Business Awards Dinner with the Lois G. Libutti Community Service Award. Today, I applaud Ms. Mazza, as her achievements should serve as an inspiration to us all.

Nancy Mazza began her career at Shadow Lawn Savings Bank as a teller. As a result of her hard work and dedication, Ms. Mazza was promoted to Branch Manager in 1984. Her responsibilities included overseeing eight branches throughout Monmouth County. In 1994 Ms. Mazza acquired the responsibilities of Senior Vice President and Senior District Executive for Sovereign Bank. She was accountable for overall sales, operations, performance management, facilities and district performance in Monmouth County. She currently serves as the Executive Vice President of Retail Banking at Colonial American Bank.

Nancy Mazza is a valued member of the community. Ms. Mazza honorably serves as past-chair of the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch and New Brunswick. She continues to remain an active member of the board. Ms. Mazza is also a committee member for United Way, Monmouth Park Charities, the March of Dimes, Michael's Feat, Jason's Dream for Kids, Tinton Falls C.U.R.E. and Toys for Tots. Nancy is an alumna of Rutgers University and earned a degree in Journalism and Communications. She is a forty-year resident of Monmouth County and currently lives in Little Silver with her husband Dominick and their three children, DJ, Joseph and Kristyn.

Mr. Speaker, once again I would like to thank Nancy Mazza for her outstanding contributions to the constituents of my district and congratulate her for the honors she has received from the Greater Long Branch Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING EMILY MISCHKE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Emily Mischke. Emily is a very special young woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Girl Scouts of the USA and earning the high honor of the Gold Award.

Emily's outstanding achievement reflects her hard work and dedication. Emily has exhibited unique and creative examples of service that have made a difference in her community. I am confident that she will continue to hold herself to the highest standards in the future. This is an accomplishment for which Emily can take pride in for the rest of her life.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Emily Mischke for her accomplishments with the Girl Scouts of the USA and for her efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of the Gold Award.

IN HONOR OF JACK HINES, JR.

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jack M. Hines, Jr. of Marshallton, Chester County, Pennsylvania on his retirement after 33 years of service as Municipal Manager of West Bradford Township and to honor him on his outstanding career of accomplishment.

In addition to his service as Municipal Manager of West Bradford Township, Jack has served on various committees of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Officials. He has been an instructor for both the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors and the Governor's Center for Local Government Services. Jack has served as Chairman of the Legislative Committee, Chester County Association of Township Officials, and has been a member of the Advisory Board for Connect Care3, which serves members of the Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative.

Further, Jack is a former Fire Chief and President of the West Bradford Fire Company, as well as being a former Fire Service Instructor and Director of the Chester County Fire School. He is a former Board Member and President of the Chester County Crime Victims Center, Chairman of the Environmental Management Center, Executive Committee Member of the Brandywine Conservancy, and Trustee of the Chester County Historical Society.

Mr. Speaker, in light of his incredible years of service to his community and litany of outstanding accomplishments almost too long to record, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Jack M. Hines, Jr. for his invaluable contributions to the quality of life of the citizens of West Bradford Township and Chester County.

JAMES BILLINGS, SR. TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise and pay tribute to the life and career of Mr. James Billings, Sr. of Pueblo, Colorado. The community has lost a great firefighter and a man, who led a life that was dedicated to family, public service and leadership.

Mr. James Billings, Sr. comes from a family of police officers and fire fighters, and it is no surprise that he followed in the honorable footsteps of his father and brother. Born and raised in Pueblo, Mr. Billings was compelled to serve the city, and joined the Pueblo Fire Department in 1953. Serving honorably and with distinction for twenty-five years, the last six of those years as the assistant fire chief. Mr. Billings was so respected as a firefighter that many have described working with him as one of the highlights of their careers. Mr. Billings' own son, James, Jr. said that the greatest memory of his long career as the Pueblo Chief of Police was the first time he was on the job with his father. For all the achievements of Mr. Billings' career in public service, he was an even more determined family man. With his loving wife Rose, he raised five wonderful children, and was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

The life of Mr. James Billings, Sr. is one that should be celebrated and recognized. This was a man who endlessly devoted himself to public service and to his family. Mr. Speaker, it has been my sincere privilege to rise and honor Mr. James Billings, Sr.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR TED JENNINGS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the remarkable example and service of a true leader in South Alabama, someone who has taken the roles of successful businessman, trusted medical adviser, and local and national civic leader for more than 30 years.

In 2012, Mayor Ted Jennings of Brewton, Alabama, will end nearly a quarter century of service as his town's chief executive.

For many, this accomplishment alone would be the epitome of a life's work. And, indeed, Mayor Jennings has confidently guided his community for four terms.

But Ted's body of accomplishments does not begin nor end with holding public office.

A graduate of Auburn University's School of Pharmacy, a successful business owner and Director of Pharmacy at D.W. McMillan Memorial Hospital, Mayor Jennings has also made an indelible mark through his compassion and devotion to the well-being of his community. And his contributions don't stop there.

While Ted Jennings may be known to the people of Brewton as their long-time mayor and trusted pharmacist, to his colleagues in Alabama and across America, he is an

indispensable resource of wisdom and experience.

A former member of the board of the National League of Cities, Mayor Jennings has held about every post one can within that important national organization, tirelessly defending the principles of good government at forums around the country. In Alabama, Mayor Jennings has also led his peers as president and long-time officer in the Alabama League of Municipalities where he has been a strong, steady voice for issues vital to local and state economic development.

A man gifted with a vision for our nation's—and region's—economic future, Mayor Jennings has for decades promoted the development of telecommunications on the local and state level, leveraging the resources of businesses and universities.

A supporter of both electronic and paved highways, Mayor Jennings also helped establish the Florida-Alabama Strategic Task Force to improve transportation between the two states to enhance both public safety and economic growth.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mayor Jennings for more than two decades and I can say, without hesitation, that his devotion to public service is without equal. I was fortunate to be a co-chair on the Alabama Rural Action Committee with Mayor Jennings, and I believe there is a no more passionate and informed voice for rural economic development than his.

As Mayor Jennings steps off the stage from a remarkable civic career, I know he will continue to have a positive impact on his community and state. To his family and close friends who have shared Ted with us for all these years, we offer our heartfelt thanks. And to the Mayor, himself, I am privileged to speak for all of South Alabama in offering our heartfelt thanks to a true servant leader, a real partner for progress and a man who leaves behind a legacy of goodness as well as success.

Thanks, Mayor Jennings, for a job well done.

HONORING WOMEN'S MONTH

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 11, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, as we work through the rigors of this congressional session, it is important that we take the time to recognize this March as National Women's History Month. The theme for 2011 is, "Our History is Our Strength," and this is understood by looking back on the challenges that women faced throughout the course of history and realizing that it has only made us stronger and more tenacious going into the future.

This month, we acknowledge those women in history who braved the fight for equal rights and paved the way for myself and many of my colleagues here today. We honor the strong women in the military who are everyday helping to ensure our safety and freedom in this world. And we honor all women for the important role that they play in their communities.

But, despite all the challenges and hurdles that we have overcome, the efforts for equality continue. As the proud representative of the